



The University of Western Ontario

EYE PROTECTION POLICY

PREPARED BY:	Dept. Of Occupational Health & Safety, Laboratory Safety Committee
APPROVED BY:	University Health & Safety Committee Occupational Health & Safety Committee
EFFECTIVE:	May 9, 2000.
REVISION:	First Supercedes Original - 1990

PURPOSE

This policy is designed to minimize the potential for eye injury by the provision and use of the correct type of eye protection. This policy enables the University to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Industrial Establishments.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all budget unit heads, supervisors, instructors and teaching assistants to ensure that all employees, students, and visitors wear suitable eye protection when in an area where potential eye hazards are present. It is the responsibility of all persons to wear the appropriate eye protection in a designated area.

APPLICATION

Eye protection must be worn by all persons assigned to, or entering areas in which eye hazards are present. Such hazards may include the following examples:

1. Sparks, open flame and spatters.
2. Molten metals.
3. Research activities involving high energy, flying particles, and the possibility of explosion or implosion of vessels.
4. Toxic, poisonous, irritating, or corrosive chemicals.
5. Glass, wood or metal processing, particularly grinding, welding, chipping, sawing and sanding.
6. Injurious radiant energy, such as welding, ultraviolet light, lasers and brazing.
7. Biohazardous materials where no suitable containment is being used.

Chemical splash goggles with indirect ventilation provide protection against chemical and biological splash hazards and dusts. Always wear splash goggles where there is a risk of splashing chemicals and infectious agents which represent a significant eye hazard (ie. corrosives, oxidizing materials and materials with immediate and serious health effects).

The budget unit head or supervisor responsible for the laser shall contact the laser supplier for the recommended protective eyewear. The correct type depends on both the power and the wavelength of the laser.

The designation of any other hazardous situations is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor concerned upon approval of the Department of Occupational Health and Safety

PROCEDURES

The approved frame for safety glasses must include side shields and meet CSA Standard Z94.3-92 or ANSI Z87.

Non-prescription Protection

Suitable non-prescription safety glasses and splash goggles for all employees, including graduate students, can be obtained from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety.

Undergraduate students must purchase their own protective eyewear.

Visitors must be supplied with protective eyewear by the budget unit.

The purchase of face shields and laser eye protectors are the responsibility of the individual budget unit.

Prescription Protection

The cost of prescription eyewear is reimbursed by the University for all employees, and graduate students.

Reimbursements will follow the current Prescription Safety Glasses Reimbursement Procedure, which can be obtained from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety.

The individual must arrange his/her own eye examination by a qualified practitioner.

Undergraduate students, who normally wear prescription eyeglasses, must also wear appropriate eye protection.

Contact lenses

Based on existing evidence it is reasonable to allow the use of contact lenses in work environments in conjunction with appropriate protective eyewear in eye hazard areas.

Signs for Designated Areas

Approved signs must be posted to indicate where eye protection is required. These can be obtained from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety.